

Goat Prairie Remnant (HGP)

The Goat Prairie Remnant (HGP) map class represents the Medium-tall Sod Temperate or Subpolar Grassland Formation (V.A.5.N.c). It is a natural/semi-natural vegetation unit. However, we mapped to the Formation level because this vegetation could not be linked to a plant community or alliance type. Goat prairies at EFMO cover small areas, always <0.25 ha (0.62 acres). Small areas as such are difficult to determine true plant associations because they are generally in transition to the surrounding plant communities.

This map class appears most often on south to southwest aspects and interfluves and has a woodland character. Tree species are sparse (<25%) and variable, but red-cedar and bur oak are usually present. Many of the herbaceous species are savanna and prairie species including asters, blazing star, side-oats grama, big bluestem, little bluestem, leadplant, and several species of native goldenrods. HGP expresses elements of other dryer plant community types described by other map classes, such as the white oak - chinquapin oak phase (FWO) of the Midwestern White Oak - Red Oak Forest map class and the hillside prairie phase (FHP) of the Chinquapin Oak Bluff Woodland map class.

Because goat prairie units at EFMO are all small in area and important to current land management efforts at EFMO, we mapped HGP to 0.1 ha (0.25 acres) MMU.

